

Proclamation 4472

October 25, 1976

National Farm-City Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we near the end of our Bicentennial year, we have good cause to once again give thanks for the unique productivity of our farms and cities. While we are a nation of individuals—farmers and ranchers, and townspeople—we all work closely together to operate our economic and governmental systems.

Our independence as a country for two centuries has been successful because our citizens have been successful working together. This is nowhere more apparent than in the continuing development of our agricultural and urban areas. Our farmers and ranchers are the greatest producers of food in the world. They do this through the help of the goods and services produced by those who have moved from farms to the cities.

It is clear that this continuing interdependence between farm and city should be more fully understood by all citizens, for it is through this partnership that the country may achieve new abundance and prosperity in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the period November 19 through November 25, 1976, as National Farm-City Week.

I request that interested individuals in all pursuits join with agricultural organizations, business and labor groups, youth and community groups, schools, and others to focus attention upon the interrelationships which exist between individuals and their labors in our economic system.

I urge the Department of Agriculture, educational institutions and all organizations and governmental agencies and officials to mark the significance of National Farm-City Week with special study, public meetings, exhibits and other appropriate activity in the public interest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4473

October 25, 1976

National Family Week, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The success of our American experiment in self-government depends upon the unique character of the American spirit—a spirit that is nurtured, taught by example, and lived by experience within the vital framework of the American family.

It is in our families that we learn, develop and practice those attitudes and concepts of right and wrong, of fairness, of charity, and love of country. Neither schools nor the institutions of government can ever replace the American family in the development of responsible and caring individuals.

Since we believe that every child has the right to grow up in a secure, loving family and that this experience lays the foundation for a happy, productive adulthood, we commend the growing numbers of Americans who are building families through adoption. By this means, thousands of children of all ages, backgrounds and with various special needs have been able to reap the benefits of permanent family membership.

It is within that family circle that each child learns the most important of life's lessons: from parents, love and respect; from grandparents and other elder relatives, wisdom and tolerance. These family experiences nurture our sense of community with others.

In deprivation and abundance, in turmoil and tranquility, Americans have reached out for their destiny from the constant sanctuary of family life.

In recognition of this fundamental role of the family in the development and continued vitality of our Nation, the Congress has requested that the week of Thanksgiving in 1976 be designated as National Family Week (Public Law 94-270, 90 Stat. 372).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning on November 21, 1976, as National Family Week. I invite the Governors of the several States and the chief officials of local governments to observe National Family Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I urge all Americans to observe this week by sharing with their families and friends an expression of the bonds between them and a common acknowledgement that through the extended relationships of the family, we will improve the quality of our lives and increase our Nation's store of peace, progress, happiness, and individual liberty.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

Proclamation 4474

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October 25, 1976

Thanksgiving Day, 1976

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Traditionally, Americans have set aside a special day to express their gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings of liberty, peace and plenty that have been bestowed upon a grateful Nation.